THE LEVITE

THE
MAGAZINE
OF THE
JOHN
WATSON
CLUB

SPRING NUMBER 1947

One Copy Gratis to Members
Other Copies, 1/- each

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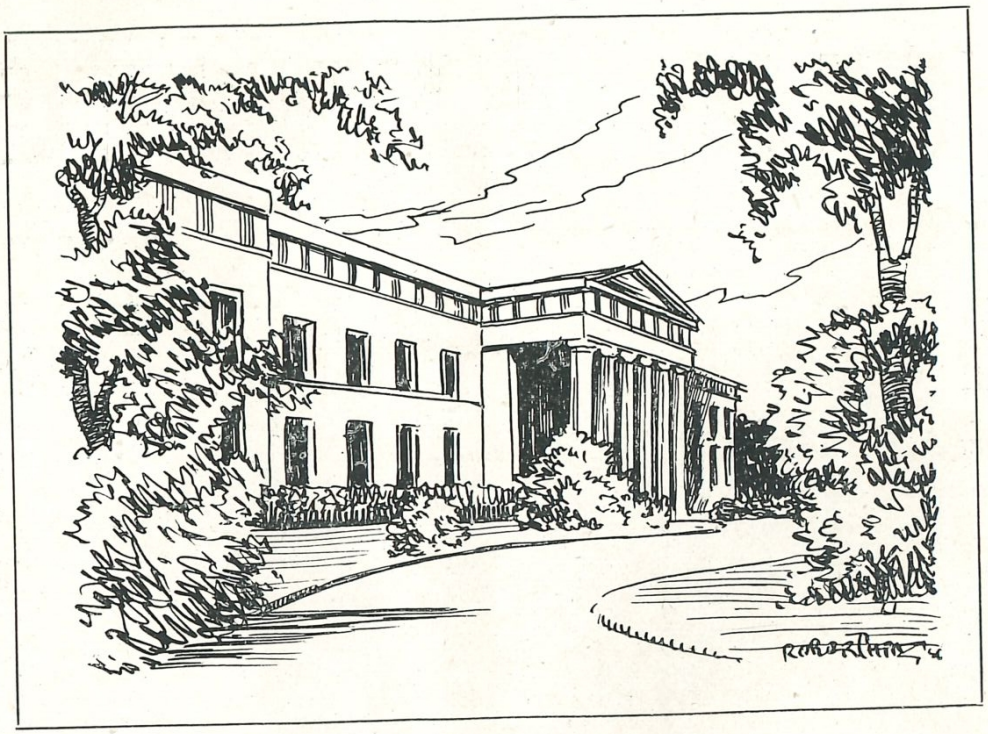

"WE'LL honour yet the School we knew,
The best School of all;
We'll honour yet the rule we knew,
Till the last bell call.
For, working days or holidays,
And glad or melancholy days,
They were great days and jolly days
At the best School of all."

NEWBOLT.

The Levite

VOLUME VII.
NUMBER 3

The Levite

EDITOR—A. DOUGLAS MURRAY.

SPRING NUMBER 1947 VOL. VII. No. 3

THE JOHN WATSON CLUB.

(*Old Boys' Club, formed April*, 1899. *Girls' Association in October*, 1903.)
Reconstituted, 26th June, 1937.

OFFICE-BEARERS, 1947.

Hon. President—Sir E. M. WEDDERBURN, D.K.S., D.Sc.

Hon. Vice-President—Miss W. L. GELLATLY.

President—D. M. THOMSON.

Vice-Presidents—
Miss JEAN D. BRUCE, M.B.E. G. D. S. FORSYTH, M.A.

Secretary—A. C. OGILVIE, 48 March Road, Blackhall, Edinburgh.

Treasurer—J. D. W. SPENCE, C.A., B.Com.
30 St. John's Road, Corstorphine, Edinburgh 12.

Deputies to Secretary and Treasurer—
Miss J. RHIND, M.A., 14 Montpelier Park, Edinburgh.
A. BOOTH, 5 Rintoul Place, Edinburgh.

Editor of Levite—A. D. MURRAY, "Stranraer," Elm Avenue, Lenzie, Dumbartonshire.

Members of Council—
Dr W. A. ALEXANDER, S. ROSS, I. G. MINTO, Miss D. DRYSDALE, Miss P. WINTER, Miss N. THOMAS.

Director nominated by the Club—
Professor W. B. STEVENSON, D.Litt., D.D.

Consultative Committee—Representing the Former Pupils—D. M. THOMSON, Professor STEVENSON and Miss W. L. GELLATLY.

F.P. Foundationers' Fund—Trustees—The Deputy Keeper, the Club President, and the Headmaster.

F.P. Centenary Recreation Fund—Trustees—The Club President, two Vice-Presidents, the Secretary, the Headmaster, the Housemistress, and the School Treasurer.

ON BEHALF OF THE CLUB.

So much is the Club bound up with the life of the School that the 27th day of May, 1947, which marks the end of the School's seven years of exile, is felt by the former pupils to be their own home-coming too. On their behalf a message of cordial greetings and good wishes was sent on that date to the Headmaster and all under his care. But do the former pupils realise that their share in the thrill of this new era is due mostly to the continued existence of the Club, or in other words, to the untiring exertions of A. Douglas Murray, their Secretary and Editor, more than to any other Levite. He was in his person the Club itself during the difficult years of the war.

Only those behind the scenes have any idea how much of himself he put into everything he did for the Club. That, one felt, came from a fine sense of integrity. An old-fashioned quality it may be nowadays, but he who is found to possess it will always be honoured by his fellows. This is an occasion for saying so, for Douglas Murray recently relinquished the office of Secretary solely because it was in the best interests of the Club that such an official should be resident in Edinburgh. Happily for the Club, he has, at its unanimous request, retained the post of Editor.

On behalf of the Club I tender to him its heartfelt thanks.

D. M. THOMSON, *President.*

THE NEW CLUB SECRETARY.

As mentioned in the report on page 5 of the proceedings at the Annual General Meeting of the Club on 11th January, 1947, a change has been necessitated in the post of Club Secretary.

The new Secretary is Mr Andrew Coutts Ogilvie, and with his appointment we can rest assured that the Club will be well served.

Andrew Ogilvie left John Watson's in 1925 to continue his education at George Watson's College, Edinburgh. Later he took up banking as a career and was employed by the Bank of Scotland at Branch Offices in Edinburgh and Hawick.

On the 1st of January, 1941, he joined the Royal Air Force and for most of the war was stationed in various parts of the Middle East. Shortly after his demobilisation he was appointed to the Liberton (Edinburgh) Branch of their Bank.

The lot of a Club Secretary is no light one and can be greatly eased by the co-operation of the members. In this we are sure he will not be disappointed and we wish him every success in his work.

FROM MARCHMONT BACK TO EDINBURGH.

The School is again at last on the move, after a stay of seven years in Marchmont House, Berwickshire. But its steps are slow and uncertain. Recently an album, containing photographs of school events during the period of evacuation, was presented by the Directors and Governors to Captain and Mrs M'Ewen, in cordial acknowledgment of their generous hospitality in providing a home for the school in war-time, without any charge of rent. The military occupation of the School buildings in Edinburgh was not concluded, in spite of all promises and hopes, until the 8th of March 1947. Immediate inspection made it clear that even a minimum restoration of its former condition would not make the School ready for re-occupation by pupils and staffs in time for the normal date of opening of the summer term. It was, therefore, decided to delay the beginning of next term for about a month, with the intention of shortening the summer vacation by a corresponding period. Meantime the heavy task of undoing the structural alterations made by the military and removing their many fittings is rapidly proceeding. It is hoped to bring back the school furniture and equipment from Marchmont in time for re-opening at the end of May. Some of the repairs and nearly all the painting and decoration will have to wait until the summer vacation. The costs obviously will be very great. It is hoped that the Government will recognise its obligation to bear at least a major part of the heavy expenses.

W. B. STEVENSON.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND REUNION.

The best attended Annual Meeting and Reunion since before the war found 55 Levites gathered, one afternoon early in January, in the house of Miss Bruce, in Pitt Street, Edinburgh.

But only three of us, I regret to say, were from " out of town "—an extremely disappointing figure. And 55 is, after all, only a miserable 15 per cent. of John Watson Club members. Where were you all? One day off a year to meet old friends, especially old school friends—who are always the best anyway—is surely not very much.

However, you " absentees " missed a lot of fun and a very interesting time. At the A.G.M. Mr D. M. Thomson, who said he was never happier than when he was doing something for the old School, presided, and Douglas Murray, who has been Club Secretary for nine years, intimated that it was with regret that, in the interest of the Club, he would have to resign as he was no longer living in the cultured Capital but in grim Glasgow.

We voted Andrew Ogilvie to be his successor and appointed Miss Joan Rhind and A. Booth to be his assistants. Two of our youngest Levites, Ian Minto (1946) and Stuart Ross (1946) were elected to the Council of the Club, one to fill the vacancy

made by Sandy Booth's appointment to the Assistant-Secretaryship and the other in place of W. R. Menzies, who resigned to allow for the entry of " some new blood."

Old school friends, some of whom were seeing each other for the first time since 1939 had a grand talk over a cup of tea, sandwiches and cakes. A 12-a-side quiz with G. D. S. Forsyth as a most severe quizmaster provided some good fun. The Old Girls won by 25 points to 21 points, but then they had " swots " like Marie Orr, Lyndall Miles, Georgina Baillie and Miss Helen Symon giving all the right answers.

Afterwards, bearded Mr J. A. Chapman (1890) reminisced amusingly about the old school of fifty years ago and then Mr G. W. Rowe, the Headmaster, made the welcome announcement that there was every prospect of the school being derequisitioned by Scottish Command in time for the start of the summer term.

He had made his first tour of inspection recently, he said, and had been " somewhat taken aback by the cagelike structures on the lower windows." However, although he hoped to have the bars removed as soon as he could, from what he could see of the F.P.'s present, living with barred windows did not seem to have done them any harm.

So, next January we will be having a real old-fashioned Reunion —and let's make it a record turn out.

E. L. MONTFORD.

THE COUNCIL'S 45th ANNUAL REPORT.

The Council has pleasure in presenting to the members its 45th Annual Report in the 47th year of the Club's existence. In doing so the Council is able to state that during the past year the affairs of the Club have been maintained as fully as its limited circumstances would permit. The continued occupation of the School by the military authorities has been more prolonged than was at first thought, but there is the welcome prospect now held out of the School returning to Belford Road in the spring or summer of 1947. When that does take place the Council is sure it is bound to have an enlivening effect throughout the Club's circle.

From the available information the following analysis of our Former Pupils on Service during and since the end of the Great War II. has been compiled and it has more than passing interest.

	Total.	Fallen.	Still in Service.	De-mobilised.	Regular Forces	Conscripted since end of war.
Boys . .	110	9	12	72	7	10
Girls . .	17	1	...	16	...	...

The commemoration of our Fallen is a duty which still befalls the Club and it will be undertaken whenever access to the School is open again.

The Council much regrets to record the death, during the past year, of one of its senior members, Miss Jean B. Colville. She remembered her old School with a legacy of £400, half of which has been apportioned to the Former Pupils' Foundationers' Fund.

The Club membership has been increased by the admission of 8 Old Boys and 4 Old Girls and the total number on the Roll now stands at 379.

The Club finances are in a satisfactory condition. There has been some slackening during the year in the payment of subscriptions, but the Council is confident that when the matter is brought before their notice, the members will gladly remit their dues.

The Levite has been published only once this year as in recent years, but it continues to be welcomed not only by the Former Pupils, but also at the School itself.

The War Memorial Bursary of £7 10s. for 1946 was awarded to John B. Baillie (1946) and the Miss Murray Memorial Bursary also of £7 10s. was awarded to Miss Patricia Jack.

The medals and prizes presented by the Club on Vacation Day in July 1946, were awarded as follows :—

Dux Boy and Dux of the School Silver Medal	Ronald Frew.
Dux Girl Silver Medal	Jean Cook
Rowe Memorial Bronze Medal for Religious Knowledge	Ronald Frew.
Langhorne Memorial Bronze Medal for Latin	Ronald Frew.
Ronaldson Prize for Writing	Stuart Ross.
School Sports Championship Cup . .	Gordon Minto.

The Council desires to express its cordial thanks to Mr Rowe for his kind and wholehearted co-operation in all matters concerning the Club.

By order of the Council,

A. Douglas Murray, *Hon. Secretary.*

THE CLUB CASH STATEMENTS (Abbreviated) for Year Ending 30th November, 1946.

CLUB ACCOUNTS.

Investments held are as follows :—

£52	0	0	4% Funding Loan, 1960/90.
212	9	1	3½% War Stock.
160	0	0	3% Defence Bonds.
£424	9	1	

CURRENT ACCOUNT.

Balance at 30th November, 1945	£114	4	6	Honorarium to Secretary ...	£10	0	0
Subs. received for Year—Boys	30	3	0	Cost of *The Levite*	34	5	3
Girls	10	10	0	Bursaries	15	0	0
Donations	12	0	6	Medals and Prizes	12	3	0
Interest on Investments and Savings Account	15	6	7	Postage, Stationery, and Bank Charges	14	1	3
				Balance at 30th November 1946—			
				On Current Account	50	15	5
				In Savings Bank	45	7	7
				On Hand	0	12	1
	£182	4	7		£182	4	7

Details of Subscriptions and Donations :—

	1945.				1946.			
	Girls			Boys	Girls			Boys
Arrears . . .	£24	7	0	£30 2 6	£0	15	0	£8 10 0
Current . . .	13	15	0	21 2 9	8	10	0	17 17 6
1946/47 . . .	2	12	6	7 12 6	1	5	0	3 15 6
Donations . . .	5	6	0	10 13 0	5	10	6	6 10 0
	£46	0	6	£69 10 9	£16	0	6	£36 13 0

The Honorarium voted by the Council to Mr A. D. Murray has been donated by him to the Foundationers' Fund.

F.P. DEVELOPMENT FUND.

Balance at 30th November, 1945	£375	11	9	Balance on Deposit Receipt	£82	8	10
Interest on Deposit Receipt uplifted	6	17	1	Do. 300 3% Defence Bonds	300	0	0
	£382	8	10		£382	8	10

F.P. TRADITION FUND.

Balance at 30th November 1945	£73	4	8	Fees to School Treasurer for Recovering Tax	£1	8	4
Donations Received	40	10	0	Paid to John Watson Found. Fund	73	4	8
Recovery of Tax	28	18	0	Balance in Bank	67	19	8
	£142	12	8		£142	12	8

Note.—The above Balance, £67 19s. 8d., has since 30/11/46 been paid over to the Foundationers' Fund.

F.P. FOUNDATIONERS' FUND.

Investments held on Capital Account at 30/11/46 totalled £6600 11s. 4d., including £4500 Debenture Stock transferred to the fund by Colonel Donaldson. In addition, legacies promised now total approximately £5000.

REVENUE ACCOUNT.

Balance at 30th November, 1945	£251	2	5	Balance in Bank and Invested at 30th November, 1946 ...	£642	17	4
Revenue received in year net ...	391	14	11				
	£642	17	4		£642	17	4

F.P. CENTENARY RECREATION FUND.

Investments on Capital Account, £728.

REVENUE ACCOUNT.

Balance at 30th November, 1945	£85	11	10	W. S. MacKenzie, Outfitter	£22	7	6
Dividend and Interest, including Tax Recovered	30	3	1	Balance in Bank and Invested at 30th November, 1946 ...	93	7	5
	£115	14	11		£115	14	11

Club Personalities

No. 1 (*Continued*)

LIEUT.-COLONEL J. DONALDSON, D.S.O.

Before the Boer War actually started, an American quite innocently told Mr Donaldson that a large shipment of arms was being carried on a German steamer for discharge at Delagoa Bay. This was passed on to Lord Milner's Secretary and a British man-of-war seized the cargo.

Immediately war broke out, Colonel Sir Aubrey Wooll Sampson got into touch with Mr Donaldson and the latter was offered a Commission in the Imperial Light Horse. "Light" seemed almost a misnomer to him, as although he was tall, he was "one of the smallest Officers, and many were veritable giants." It was the first regiment to be raised in Africa. and as Quartermaster, Captain Donaldson required all his organising powers to equip them speedily. The regiment was soon in action. Of their first fight alongside British troops, at Elandslaagte, General French, said, "If ever a regiment won a battle by itself, it was the I.L.H."

The I.L.H., except for A squadron, was part of the garrison shut up in Ladysmith, the Boers knew it, and Captain Donaldson writes, "We have been shelled more than any regiment in Ladysmith. The part of the camp where I had my office as Quartermaster was particularly favoured by the marksmen. . . . . A shell passed so close to my office that the wind knocked over a pile of saddles. . . . . My orderly's tent was torn to small pieces and spent shrapnel has been thrown in and about my office. I saw a shell, as I write, hit General White's house." The garrison did not by any means sit still. Sorties were made at night, and on one occasion the I.L.H. captured several guns, including a Long Tom, which was the real object of their raid. In the darkness one of the Sergeants collared his own General, thinking he was one of the enemy. When he recognised who he was, he sort of vanished himself. Captain Donaldson's diary of the siege tells of many tough corners, and after the Boers attack on Waggon Hill, he writes, "The worst day for the I.L.H. it has ever had and at the same time the best. Two depleted squadrons with about fifty men posted on Waggon Hill, at about 3 a.m. on 6th January, were tackled by a Boer force. The sentry challenging was promptly shot. He was still alive, shot through body, head, and foot, five wounds, and was dying slowly. By 4.30 the balance of regiment was out, and within a few minutes the Colonel, Doveton, Campbell and Codringron, among the Officers, were shot. A most determined battle was fought all day till 7.30 p.m. when the remaining Boers cleared. Our I.L.H. losses, very

heavy, 24 killed outright and 29 wounded . . . " It may be added that another J.W.I. boy, Captain Walker, in command of the Natal Hotchkiss Gun Detachment, distinguished himself in that fight.

As the days of the siege lengthened and the rations got lower and lower, Captain Donaldson's anxieties increased. He had at last to resort to killing his own horse for food. The meat was distributed without comment to the squadrons, and the dinner might have passed off with unqualified success that night if the mess cook, in his anxiety, had not entered the mess and asked Captain Donaldson, " Were the horse steaks tender ? " Curtain !

Captain Donaldson's diary on the last day of the siege records, " Daily rations reduced to $\frac{1}{3}$th lb. army biscuit ; 1 lb. beef with bone or $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. pressed beef ; $\frac{1}{6}$ oz. tea ; 1 oz. sugar. News in to-day 1.3 p.m. that yesterday, Majuba Day, Buller beat the Boers and that they are in full retreat at 6.30. Some one said that Buller's cavalry had arrived. The word got about they were comprised of I.L.H. and Carbineers and sure enough it was so, and our A squadron came into our camp at 7 o'clock. What a cheer went up and then ' God Save the Queen ' as they came through, and then another cheer and then we pulled them off their horses to shake hands, etc."

After the regiment had been brought up to strength again, the I.L.H. joined the column under the command of Colonel Mahon, which eventually relieved Mafeking, where Captain Donaldson was appointed Provost Marshal, but his heart was set on getting command of a troop. At last he had his wish, and he took such a worthy part in what General Smuts described, some years later, as the most outstanding successful rearguard action by either side during the whole campaign, that his name was mentioned in Army Orders. In this action, after narrating the failure of 700 Boers to encircle a small force of a third of their number, he tells of his narrow escape from death. He writes ;—"Soon after starting from the rise which he had vacated and which was now occupied by the enemy, a very heavy rifle fire was directed from there at me, about 500 yards away. I saw I could not get to O'Flaherty and changed my direction to follow the others to the pom pom. I rode a zig-zagging course to prevent accurate aim. My horse was hit and his near hind leg broken but he galloped on three legs and was hit by three other bullets. I had several bullets through my clothes, one through my field-glasses, one through my haversack, and one grazed my shoulder, but one got me through my left side." The wound was a dangerous one. When he thought that he had sufficiently recovered, he left the hospital, without permission, to rejoin the regiment.

While the I.L.H. were pitting themselves against the elusive tactics of De Wet, Captain Donaldson had, through a previous injury to his right ear, become very deaf, and in January,1902, he was sent to Johannesburg for treatment, and then to England, and so his participation in the Boer War ended.

Ten months later, when he returned to Africa, he was greeted with a telegram offering him the command of the Imperial Light Horse Volunteers, which he accepted. During the period he was in command the regiment had several notable shooting successes at the English Bisleys, two of its members winning the " Daily Telegraph " Trophy and the King's Silver Medal, respectively.

New happiness came to him on 5th August, 1903, when he married Miss Annie Elizabeth Newton, who hailed from New Zealand. Their son was born on Good Friday of 1905.

Soon after the Boer War Colonel Donaldson was one of the prime movers in forming the first Transvaal political party, known as the Progressive Party. Its membership included a number of erst-while enemies, and its principal object was the maintenance of the British Flag, combined with equal rights for all voters and a just Native and Asiatic policy in accordance with South African ideas.

Amongst the Colonel's comrades in the I.L.H. there were many of the Johannesburg Stock Exchange, lawyers and mine managers, and he naturally became associated with them in post-war times in their line of business. Investing in gold mines one day, diamonds another, and oil another, and so on, he had his lean years as well as fat. But all the time, although he was on the reserve of the Defence Force since 1906, he kept up intimate connection with his old regiment.

4th August, 1914, found him ready to serve again. When the Union Government of South Africa decided to tackle the Germans in South West Africa, he commanded the first mounted troops to land there, and he had his first taste of airplanes taking part in active warfare. The force, however, was not strong enough until the rebellion at the Cape itself had been subdued. On the arrival of reinforcements General Botha soon quickened up hostilities. His masterly tactics in sending out his columns wide from the railway while the Germans clung to it, thus always threatening to get behind them, soon brought the campaign to an end.

Some months afterwards Colonel Donaldson went to England with his wife and his son, to offer his services there. After weeks of waiting, he was given the command of the 19th Battalion (Labour) the Royal Scots. It was the first Labour Battalion to be formed. From Blairgowrie he took the battalion to France. Early in 1918, however, he had a severe attack of bronchitis, and although, when he was better, he tried to get back to France, the fiat went forth that he was unfit. When his days in the Army ended, he had the proud record, in serving his country, of being once dangerously wounded, twice being mentioned in despatches, having the Queen's and the King's medals, with seven bars and the D.S.O.

Away back in 1897 Colonel Donaldson had pegged out a mine property near Johannesburg. Little did he then think what the

future was to reveal. He sold his share profitably. In 1919 he became interested " in opening up what is now the N'kana Mine, which is the most important copper mine in the British Empire. It has made Northern Rhodesia a much more valuable part of the Empire than it previously was."

Many other business ventures followed. But one of his striking successes, and one which has benefited his old School tremendously, was, when he entered the field against African Films Ltd., which, until then, practically held a monopoly in the South African Cinema world. His company was called Kinemas Ltd., which showed in 1929 the first full-length talking pictures on the screen in that country. He writes, " It may not be out of place here to mention that prior to the advent of Kinemas Limited, numerous American major film-producing companies had endeavoured to establish themselves in South Africa, but found the Schlesinger method too much for them with the result that their schemes were abandoned, and it was only many years after Kinemas was established and had broken the one-time impregnable Schlesinger monopoly that some of the American Companies were able to establish themselves in the Union."

Fair dealing, we cannot but notice, has been the outstanding factor throughout Colonel Donaldson's life. And when the Union Government, under General Hertzog, introduced a Bill in Parliament to deprive the natives of their votes, Colonel Donaldson's sympathies were aroused at once. Hearing that the Government had offered the natives free travelling allowances to Cape Town but no grant for subsistence while there, which made the offer practically useless, Colonel Donaldson provided £500 for the latter purpose. The result was that not only did the natives, who then had votes, retain them but also the right to elect three white members to the House of Assembly and four in the Senate. From this small beginning Colonel Donaldson started the Bantu Welfare Trust. He endowed it with £50,000 and of its four Patrons, it is only necessary to name General Smuts to give some idea of its standing. The Trust exists to assist the formation of Native Trade Unions, give legal aid, help native authors, singers, musicians, and artists. Every side of native life is touched. The Trustees have, therefore, plenty of opportunities of making use of any further contributions which may come to hand.

The story of Colonel Donaldson's experiences, infinite in variety, is far from complete, but it would be even more so, if we did not touch upon his unfailing remembrance of his old School. By his splendid lead in establishing the Former Pupils' Foundationers' Trust on such a sound basis, he has brought an influence to bear which will be of inestimable blessing so long as John Watson's exists.

D. M. Thomson.

No. 2.—Poet and Author.

JOHN ALEXANDER CHAPMAN.

John Alexander Chapman, poet and author, was a Levite of the year 1890. After some years in banks at home he moved from London to Calcutta (1900), still in the same employment. But soon he turned to teaching in a Government Commercial College (1905-11) and after that, for most of the remainder of his long residence in India, he worked professionally as a Librarian, first in the Imperial Library at Calcutta (1911-29) and afterwards in the Rampur State Library (1932-36). He quickly fell in love with the land of his seeming exile and its people. He found that he had entered " a world of wonder," whose children bound him " with a spell of lustrous eyes." Indian poetry of course drew his attention. Indian friends made for him prose translations of poems, which he " paraphrased " into English verse, to their great delight. Selections of these were ultimately published under the titles *Vaishnava Lyrics* (1923) and *The Rampur Anthology* (1934). The former must appear to English readers to be simply love poems, although to Indians they have a religious background. The latter includes renderings of many " quatrains " and odes of the best known Persian poets (Hafiz, Omar, and others) and also some representative Bengali poetry. A book of charming sketches of domestic events in the lives of Indian people and of incidents in his own Indian life (published in two editions in 1928) is a further proof of the spell that India cast upon him. It was entitled *The Character of India* and was intended to balance and correct the sombre records of Indian married life set forth in Miss Mayo's *Mother India.*

The first publication of Mr Chapman's own poetry (1905) was afterwards described by him as " a collection of simple poems, mostly expressive of human affection and emotion—gladness, love, hope, sorrow, and despair." Later poems are more elaborate, although still generally short, and they sometimes sound a sharp note of criticism—of Society, of the Church and of alien Government. But the poet's chief inspiring influence continued to be his intense love of beauty. He was always fascinated by the beauty of nature, by the charms of woman-kind and by the winsomeness of young children. Most of his poems, I suppose, reflect his own changing experiences and moods. But they are sustained by a conviction that poetry serves a great purpose. It is a Light illuminating surrounding Darkness.

Mr Chapman's English poems are gathered chiefly in three collections, *Christus natus est* (Calcutta, 1923), *Lyrical Poems* (Calcutta, 1927) and *Blue and Grey* (Oxford, 1927) and in a portion of *The Rampur Anthology* (Oxford, 1934). Only the last volume is now easily procurable. The title of the first belongs properly to one

poem only and is not representative of the whole. Those not already accustomed to the forms of English 20th century poetry will find new strange rhythms in these collections. But if they do not make the once customary pause at the end of every printed line and do not always stress rhyming syllables, they will discover pleasing rhythms where at first there seem to be none. Three samples are offered to them, without further comment. Another, *Gipsy Queen*, will be found in the last edition of the Oxford Book of English Verse.

For all the beauty of the firmament
Of childhood's years—arched heaven and wonder-blue,
And the strange-patterned stars, and all the new
Moons, that were handless silver sickles, bent,
  For those, I had and have a heart content ;
Though I have many sorrows and the charm
Might in dark days and sad have taken harm,
But close within my heart it was up-pent.
  I have still greater treasures than those years
Had presage of—so many that the count
Exceeds the power to marshal and to tell ;
My eyes have seen, though often dim with tears,
New things to be from a diviner fount,
  And once I heard a far unearthly bell.

Give me thy hands, Love,
  But thou, Love, hast none ;
Give me thy lips, Love,
  But thou, Love, hast none ;
Speak with thy voice, Love,
  But thou, Love, hast none,
Formless, timeless, unsearchable one.

Give me not bread to eat
Nor wine to drink,
Help me, instead, to beat
Down the flames, that wink
Out of the earth, around
The feet of humankind—
The little tongues of fire,
Licking, without a sound,
Till in a fury, blind,
Crested, leaping the pyre,
They hiss and ruin and rave,
In wind-blown wave on wave.

Literary essays are another important part of Mr Chapman's writings. I warmly recommend readers interested in poetry to

obtain from the author a copy of his *Papers on Shelley, Wordsworth and others* (1929). It might be entitled "What is Poetry?" or "Essays on Poets and Poetry," for it contains more stimulating thought and more good sense on these subjects than are likely to be found in any similar small publication elsewhere. In a separate pamphlet (39 pages) Mr Chapman has given his view of the much-debated character of Hamlet, which he links closely with his conception of Shakespeare's own character and mind (Oxford, 1932). He is still actively at work in retirement, writing for future publication, when times become more propitious.

W. B. STEVENSON.

Club Talk

To the following five Levites we send hearty congratulations :—

Arthur S. Binnie (1934) on the award of the Military Cross. Every one of us will recall the daring exploits of General Wingate's "Chindits" behind the Japanese lines in Burma, but probably few know that Arthur S. Binnie (1934) was one of these toughened warriors and fewer still know that his services were recognised by the award of the Military Cross.

"Ghandi" Binnie joined the Territorials in 1939 and in November 1940 received a Commission with the King's Regiment. Later he was posted to the 2nd Batt. Duke of Wellington's Regiment and from 1942-1945 was in India and Burma and saw service with General Wingate.

General Wingate, in March 1944, during his second and biggest airborne Burma operations decided to send six Officers and 70 men touring round the southermost boundry of his operat.onal zone, and behind the Japanese lines, about 60 miles north of Mandalay. The objects were twofold ; firstly, to direct attention from his main operation and, secondly, to blow up a railway bridge on the only line communicating with South Burma and the Chindit fighting area.

Arthur Binnie—one of the Officers selected—flew at night by glider and crash-landed near the Irawaddy River where a landing ground of sorts had been prepared. His O.C., being injured in landing, was evacuated by air three days later and Binnie now found himself in command of the whole party. For the next six weeks he and his men fought their way through the wildest jungle and covered approximately 300 miles. Food supplies dropped by plane ceased shortly after the start of their operations due to the failure of their wireless and they were forced to subsist on such food as could be found growing nearby. At last their mission achieved but more or less exhausted through lack of food and the terrible hardships they

had endured they eventually located and made safe contact with another body of our own troops.

Their dangers were not, however, over, for whilst heading for a main air strip still behind the Japanese lines they were ambushed but happily suffered only four walking casualties and were eventually withdrawn to Assam.

Every Officer and man did his bit nobly and for his leadership and determination to carry out his orders Arthur Binnie has now been decorated. Congratulations !

Some three months later he was wounded when taking 12 flame-throwers into action at Mogaung in North Burma during heavy fighting and as a result has lost the sight of his right eye.

Now demobilised he has commenced medical studies at Liverpool University and recently passed his first zoology and botany examinations. Making light of his optical handicap, during the Easter recess he was on tour in Eire with the Varsity Rugby XV.

Prof. Chas. McNeil (1896) on whom the Liverpool Medical Institute recently conferred Honorary Membership. This honour—a rare one—has only been conferred on 12 people since the Institution was founded 110 years ago. Prof. McNeil holds the Chair of Child Health at Edinburgh University.

Ian D. Johnston (1917) on his appointment as a Director of Messrs Gordon Grant & Co. Ltd., Trinidad. He hopes to be home on leave in Aberdeen this summer.

Stephen Miles (1933) on his appointment to a Fellowship at Harvard University, U.S.A., for Political Science. The appointments offered by the Commonwealth Fund of New York to British graduates were suspended during the war and have only now been resumed. Stephen, who graduated M.A. at St. Andrews, left for America on 1st September of last year.

John Taubman (1938) on his graduating M.B., Ch.B., at Edinburgh University last summer. He is now filling a post at Clayton Hospital, Wakefield, Yorks.

Lyndall Miles on graduating M.A. at St. Andrews University with 1st Class Honours in History. Last autumn she was appointed assistant to Professor Mackie of the Scottish Modern History Department of Glasgow University.

In the realm of sport Levites have continued to acquit themselves with distinction. The most prominent Levite has been John G. M. Hart who since leaving John Watson's in 1943, when he was Sports Champion, has developed into probably the best athlete which

the School has produced since the days of D. A. McRury (1916). McRury on at least one occasion competed against the famous Eric Liddell, and Hart has competed at athletic meetings in company with such equally well-known athletes as Sydney Wooderson (former world mile record holder), Alan Paterson and the coloured runners McDonald Bailey and A. S. Wint.

Specialising in the 120 yards hurdles event, of which event he is the Scottish Amateur Champion, he has nevertheless shown himself to be an all-round athlete. Amongst his other successes last year were :—

The 120 yards hurdles event, whilst representing Edinburgh University in the Scottish University Championships, in the time of 16 seconds—only ·2 second outside the Scottish native record.

The 120 yards hurdles event whilst representing Scotland at the International Athletic Festival, sponsored by Edinburgh Corporation.

The half-mile and 120 yards hurdles events at the Edinburgh University Championship meeting.

In addition he represented Great Britain in the 120 yards hurdles event of the International Athletic Match against France, held at London, and Scotland in the same event at the British Amateur Junior Championship Meeting.

Pamela Winter is a member of the Edinburgh University 1st XI. Hockey Team, and John Loudon (1937) plays forward for 1st XV. of that University.

Herbert Brodie (1936) has made several appearances for the 1st Hillhead High School F.P. Team.

The Boyd Quaich.

Old school friends of Prof. D. R. Boyd ("David Boyd," Levite of 1886) will join in sorrow with him over the untimely deaths of his two sons in the recent war. One was a doctor (Quentin Douglas Boyd), the other a Major in the Hampshire Regiment (Anthony Persse Boyd, M.C.). They will also admire the happy choice of a memorial to the two brothers established in St. Andrews, their Alma Mater. A "Boyd Quaich" has been designed and made to be competed for annually over two rounds of the Old Golf Course. Entries will be accepted from students of any University in any country. They will be received as guests of the University Court which has undertaken to administer the new endowment.

A replica of the Quaich will be given to the winner. It is intended in this way to foster friendship between students of all nations.

The first book of a new author is always of interest but when the author is none other than Mr David M. Thomson, the Club's President, our interest turns to anticipation when we recollect the

quality of his many writings during his 30-year term of the Editorship of this Magazine, and on many occasions thereafter. Mr Thomson recently published a book entitled *The Corstorphine Heirloom* which relates in a refreshingly readable manner the history of the Old Parish Church of Corstorphine, Edinburgh. By many history is regarded as rather a dull subject, but Mr Thomson has been able to draw from the very stones of this ancient church a story as romantic and often dramatic as any of its kind.

In a review of the book under the heading of "The Church That Has Everything," the Editor of the "Edinburgh Evening News," says :—"Is there a church in the Edinburgh district more beautiful in itself or more steeped in history than the Old Parish Church of Corstorphine. Verily it is a country church with a Cathedral look : it carries its years becomingly. For any jaded townsman to make the journey out to Corstorphine on a Sunday morning and sit under the scholarly guidanee of the Rev. Foster Franklin is an unique emotional experience. The comparatively low roof gives a resonance to the praise that is most refreshing. Ritual combines with dignity in the Service, but the homely touch bobs up now and again, as in the warning from the pulpit about possible shortcomings of the organ which is in a precarious state." Much has been written about the Church down the years but nothing quite so comprehensive or so authoritative has ever before appeared as the *Corstorphine Heirloom.*

The success of Mr Thomson's first book, which we hope will only be the forerunner of others, may be measured by the fact that all copies of it were sold shortly after publication.

An interesting ceremony took place in Edinburgh, in January, when a portrait of the principal School Director, Sir Ernest Wedderburn, LL.D., W.S., Deputy Keeper of the Signet, was presented to the Society of Writers to H.M. Signet in the Signet Library. The portrait is the work of Mr David S. Ewart, A.R.S.A., and a replica was presented to Lady Wedderburn.

Stanley Nairne (1896), one snowy day in January, had a remarkable escape from serious injury when a saloon car in which he was a passenger, skidded, crashed into railings, turned a somersault and landed upside down in a basement area. He was only slightly injured and we trust he has now fully recovered from this alarming experience. Mr Nairne, who for many years has taken such a keen interest in various youth organisations, is perhaps best known for his work in connection with the Scottish Schoolboys' Camps so popular before the war.

Sydney Scroggie (1935) is now in residence at New College, Oxford, studying for a degree in History.

R. A. Inglis (1933) is at Edinburgh University studying Medicine.

The Miss Murray Memorial Bursary for 1946, with a value of £7 10s., was awarded to Miss Patricia Jack, and the War Memorial Bursary of a similar amount was awarded to John B. Baillie, now a pupil of Wallace Hall Academy, Dumfries.

W. L. Orr (1929) has recently taken up a teaching appointment at Arbroath High School. His brother, Jack, arrived home on leave from India at the end of last year and has now returned to his post with the Indian Civil Service.

Other Levites home within the last year were Tom Millar (1925) from Kenya, Mrs Peter Cairns (Madge Prentice) from Spain and Mrs Attwood (J. Lennox). Mrs Attwood after spending many years in Brazil is now home for good and is resident in Edinburgh.

With news of Levites home to the Old Country we also have news of Levites settling abroad. John Aitken (1933) returned in April of last year to Malaya where he saw war service and is now engaged in rubber planting in Johore. Ernest Paton (1946) sailed for South Africa last November and is now resident in Randebasch, Cape Province. He has taken up Insurance as a career and entered the service of the Phœnix Assurance Coy. in Capetown. John Gunn (1939) sailed in February of last year to take up an appointment in Tanganyika as an Agricultural Officer of the Colonial Agricultural Service.

The latest " It's a small world " story comes from Andrew Oglvie (1925) who writes :—" While serving with an R.A.F. Radar Unit in Haifa, Palestine, in the comparatively peaceful days of war, my C.O. put me up for a Commission, and, after the usual form filling in quadruplicate, I was eventually bidden to an interview with the local area C.O., whose H.Q. was not far away.

" It was a lovely morning when, with some trepidation, I walked down Mount Carmel to interview the ' old man '—some new bloke who had but recently arrived and was not too bad I had been told.

" On arrival at H.Q. I had the inevitable wait before being ushered into the inner sanctum. Judge my surprise when I saw a youngish man sitting at ease behind his desk smoking a pipe, and being asked to sit down. Not a bad beginning I thought inwardly as I lit up my cigarette. With my ' papers ' in front of him he looked at me and said, ' Don't you recognise me, Ogilvie ? ' Shaken by such an unorthodox opening I looked keenly at him but could do no better than suggest that perhaps we had come out on the same boat. ' No, much farther back than that,' he said, and I cursed myself for not having found out his name before getting this length. Then I thought of J.W.S. and it dawned on me—he was Glyn McDougall

whom I remembered had joined the R.A.F. after leaving School, and who was now an exalted Wing Commander with participation in the Battles of Britain and Malta to his credit. 'You are Glyn McDougall,' I said, and, as he nodded, my mind went back over the years to our school days when we used to roam the Kiddern as a chosen band of outlaws, and how, when Lawley (one of the Masters) used to play " William Tell " on the piano, Glyn McDougall danced the fandango behind his back to an admiring audience. It was amazing that this quiet self-assured man could have been the leaping youngster of these days some twenty years previous.

" Many were the questions asked of what happened to so and so and ' do you remember the time we . . . . ' but that, as Kipling says, is another story.

" Being a mere L.A.C. at the time, and moved shortly afterwards to Egypt, it so happened that we did not meet again. But to complete my tale it must be mentioned that when, on his recommendation, I reached the final Board such a Commission as I had been put up for was found to be non-existant in the M.E.F. *Per ardua ad . . . .* ! "

Levites of the " Marchmont " era will be sorry to hear that Miss Lawson, Housemistress since the early years of the war, left John Watson's at the end of the Winter Term prior to taking up an appointment in May at the new Royal Merchant Navy School, at Bexhill-on-Sea. This school—the second only of its kind in Britain—is a co-educational foundation school for the sons and daughters of men of the Merchant Navy. Miss Lawson will have the exacting yet facinating task of developing it from " scratch." Her pupils will all be between the ages of 8 and 11 years, who after spending a few years at Bexhill-on-Sea, will go on to complete their education at the parent Merchant Navy School, in Berkshire.

Miss Lawson, through *The Levite*, desires to send her best wishes to all her old pupils and expresses the hope that when any of them are in the South they will look her up and " have a sniff of the air of the English Channel." Her address, after May, will be : The Royal Merchant Navy School, Collington Avenue, Bexhill-on-Sea, Sussex. Levites of all ages will wish her every success in her new post.

Ian D. S. Cunningham (1943) has recently obtained a Cadetship at Cranwell College, Lincolnshire, for a Commission in the Royal Air Force. At Gordon's College, Aberdeen, he was a prefect and was successful in passing the School Certificate Examination.

Alastair Wells (1944) was called up for service with the Royal Navy on the 15th of January last.

Since demobilisation, Hector J. M. MacDonald (1918) has resumed with the Mutual Life and Citizens Assurance Co. of Australasia, in their Edinburgh Office.

Martin Aitken (1933) is training to be a grain buyer and has now finished the practical side of his training. He recently became engaged to an Edinburgh girl. Congratulations, Martin !

To the following Levites we tender our congratulations and best wishes :—

Marriages :

In Canada, Kathleen Drummond to H. P. Lindeman, Ontario, Canada.

At New Delhi, on 1st November, 1943, Jean Murray to Derek Walker, Bulawayo, South Rhodesia.

At Edinburgh, on 6th February, 1947, Robert A. Ingles (1933) to Elizabeth Mary Scott, Troon.

At Edinburgh, on 15th September, 1942, Maisie Fraser to William Simpson, Edinburgh.

Births :

At Inverness, on 28th November, 1945, to Mr and Mrs David Macdonald (1936), a daughter, Marilyn Jane.

At Edinburgh, on 29th May, 1946, to Mr and Mrs A. Booth (1933), a daughter, Sheila Margaret.

At Ealing, London, on 4th June, 1946, to Mr and Mrs Lunan (Jean Orr), a son, Donald James.

At Edinburgh, in June, 1946, to Mr and Mrs W. L. Orr (1929), a daughter, Catherine Deirdre.

At Edinburgh, on 21st July, 1946, to Mr and Mrs Stirton (Dorothy Baptie), a daughter, Marie Louise.

At Edinburgh, on 16th August, 1946, to Mr and Mrs Andrew Ogilvie (1925), a daughter, Heather Margaret.

At Norwich, on 5th January, 1947, to Mr and Mrs Donald High (1929), a daughter.

At Edinburgh, on 15th January, 1947, to Mr and Mrs E. Ros Birkett, C.A. (1916), a daughter, Margaret Isobel Gilfillan.

At Edinburgh, on 2nd March, 1947, to Mr and Mrs Simpson (Maisie Fraser), a daughter.

Deaths :

The Club has suffered the loss of two of its elder members, Mrs Ross and Dr. John S. Findlay.

Mrs Ross (*nee* Margaret McPherson) left John Watson's as long ago as 1876 and throughout the many years until her death on the 10th May, 1945, took a keen interest in all the news of her old School which reached her.

Dr. John Sawers Findlay, who died on 31st January, 1947, left John Watson's some nine years after Mrs Ross, and on the formation of the Club in 1899 he was one of its earliest members. His medical studies were taken at Aberdeen University, and after graduating he practiced, firstly, in Yoker and later in Glenlivet and Dufftown in the County of Banff, of which he was a Justice of the Peace.

In August 1913, after taking his D.P.H. at Glasgow University, he was appointed School Medical Inspector for the Western District of Stirlingshire—a post which he held until his retirement in 1936. During the recent war he served on one of the Glasgow Medical Boards set up under the National Service Acts.

To the relatives of these Levites we tender our sincere sympathy.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

Gayle, Hawes,
Yorks.

To The Editor,

Sir,

Would it not be a mistake to go upon the rule that donations for John Watson's Foundationers' Trust should be sought for only amongst Old Girls, Old Boys ? I have experimented to put it before my kinsfolk and friends and have so far collected about £30. I propose to keep pegging away ; for nothing short of a large sum will yield an income big enough to make " all the difference " in the School's budget. So I think, too, that the widest publicity should be given to the fact that this additional Endowment is being raised. I would have an annual statement showing the total ingathered to date, and how it is invested ; in fact, a balance sheet ; one showing donations, etc., and accrued interest separately. This statement I would have sent, not only to each member of the Club, as is presently done, but also to every mother of a girl or boy at the School ; for one never knows but that a mother in some later year, the girl or boy having grown up, and now off her hands, might then contribute something. In any case we might rely upon the parents taking a continual interest in what is being done by the present generation of Former Pupils.

Yours, etc.,

J. A. CHAPMAN.

Choosing a Career

No. 2.

ACCOUNTANCY.

By E. Ros Birkett, C.A.

" There is always room for a good man at the top."

This trite saying, while no doubt applicable to many careers, is undoubtedly true of the accountant's profession, whether one continues to practise it and becomes senior partner of such a firm as Price, Waterhouse & Company, or enters commerce and fills such a position as was recently advertised by the Lever Soap and Margarine combine, who required a Manager for the 14 million pounds worth of securities belonging to their pension scheme. In such positions a five figure income may be looked for. Yet although we cannot all rise to these heights, the profession does undoubtedly offer a considerable number and variety of posts carrying a comfortable income along with interesting work and good opportunities of serving the community. Some mathematical aptitude is certainly desirable, but perhaps the chief requirement is imagination—the ability to see beyond the figures on a page and to visualise their meaning. A boy or girl with normal intelligence need have no qualms about passing the required examinations, provided he or she is prepared to spend five years fairly hard swotting. I say five years because that is the normal period of apprenticeship ; the possession of a University degree permits an apprentice to reduce that period to four years, but as the minimum period in which a degree may be obtained is three years, this would mean a total period of seven years before the apprentice would be a qualified C.A.—perhaps too long for many of us to wait ere earning our living. I speak here of an indenture to one of the Chartered bodies, of whom the three senior societies in the world are those of Edinburgh, Glasgow and Aberdeen, respectively. There are, of course, many accountants who are not members of the Chartered bodies and many good openings are available for them, but this article is intended to be of use to aspiring C.A.'s.

Candidates for admission to one of these three Societies must first pass either the Higher Leaving Certificate Examination or the University Preliminary Examination, or their equivalent. Thereafter they enter on a Contract of Apprenticeship with a firm of C.A.'s and pay an indenture fee to that firm. In the case of the Edinburgh Society the fee is one hundred guineas : the Glasgow and Aberdeen Societies charge less, I believe. In addition the apprentice pays five guineas registration fee to the Society, which entitles him to free access to the numerous textbooks in the Society Library. During

his five years, the apprentice will receive hardly any pay ; probably for the whole period it will total twice his indenture money. During this time he will have had to pay about £30 for University Classes and Examination Fees, in addition to any private tuition which he wishes to arrange. (Three University Classes are compulsory : Accounting and Business Method, Scots or Commercial Law and Political Economy. A class pass in Law is sufficient, but in Accounting and Economics the apprentice must pass a special degree examination). An intermediate examination is taken about half way through the apprenticeship, and the final after completion thereof. On passing the final, the apprentice pays another hundred guineas, half of which goes to the Society and the other half to the Annuity and Endowment Fund. He also pays his first annual subscription of one guinea to the Society and five guineas to the above-mentioned Fund. By this time he has been looking round for a job, and there is plenty of scope for a wide variety of taste—scope which is likely to extend in the ensuing years. Those who prefer to stay at home can obtain positions with professional firms or commercial organisations or public authorities. Some of these are stationary jobs, others involve travelling throughout the country. Those who possess the wanderlust will find every opportunity in such parts of the world as North or South America and the Far East. For South America a knowledge of Spanish or Portuguese is essential ; these, however, are two of the easiest languages to learn. In most other parts of the world (so far as this article is concerned) English is more and more becoming a *lingua franca*. Such positions as I have indicated carry salaries ranging from a few hundred pounds to several thousands, depending largely on one's personal ability.

The Secretary of the Joint Committee of Councils of the Chartered Accountants of Scotland is Mr John E. Dalgliesh, C.A., 23 Rutland Square, Edinburgh 1, from whom fuller particulars, supplementing this brief article, may be obtained.

School Memories

Part 2.

THE MASTERS AND OTHERS.

It is seldom that boys, when grown to men, do not think of their schoolmasters without interest and a degree of affection ; even sometimes admiration. As boys they are too apt to look upon the Masters as their natural enemies. From, I suppose, something in the clay of which I was kneaded, or because of some bias given to me by my environment, if a little boy can be said to have had one, I found myself, in John Watson's, more interested in the two Masters than

in my contemporaries, or any of the older boys except " Big " Fenton, who was my " big boy."

The Masters were Dickson, who taught in the Second Section (I've forgotten his nickname) and Mackay (Mossie), whom you found in the Third. Dickson left for another school at the end of my second year ; so that I was never taught by him. He gave one the impression of much virility, partly because, being very dark, his chin had a purplish, gunpowder look, as if he had been in the wars—like the Old Dessauer, who fought on Marlborough's side in the Battle of Blenheim. If there has been, which I doubt not there has, an account of his after-career in *The Levite*, I've missed it, probably as one exiled in India : I should be glad to read it. Of course there was a presentation to him, when he left, and he made a speech. I can still see him speaking.

Mossie gave one the impression of being a " soft " man ; that is, the figure of him did, for he was quite a good disciplinarian. He had delicately-shaped hands : even the delicacy of the pores of the skin of them was apparent. So, naturally, he was called Mossie. I liked him very much. That's a fact that I mention now for the first time ; for boys regard a boy's positively liking a Master as a species of treachery. I have thought of Mossie far oftener than of any other Master. That is because one night, when he and I were alone in the basin-room in which we washed our hands the last thing before bed, he made a remark to me, and the act of drying my hands (his remark was about the way I did it) is so associated for me with Mossie, that I seldom dry my hands, late at night, without remembering how he stood there.

When Mossie moved into the Second Section, he either did a new thing there, or he carried on the tradition of that room in one matter. He joined the two classes into one every Friday, to examine it in the work of the five preceding days. So he was brought to do me an injustice ; not that it did me any harm. We were being called up one by one that day to point out named places on the map of England. The first boy who couldn't was sent to the bottom. The second one to fail, it being still the first round, went to the bottom too. At the end of the first round there were, then, so many " dead " boys there. The first to fail in the second round was sent to the bottom of the now smaller class ; that is, to the place *above* all those " dead " boys. Finally they were all " dead " but myself. The test should then have been concluded ; our places marked, so that I might have the credit of having won the race that time. Mossie kept me standing before that " blamed " map of England, telling me to point to named place after named place, and when I fumbled over Preston in Lancashire he had had enough of me, but, instead of sending me back where I'd come from, the *top* of the combined classes, he sent me down to the very *bottom ! !* I've borne a grudge ever since, not against Mossie, but against Preston, and refuse ever to set foot in the town !

I don't bear Mossie a grudge even for another of his cuts at me. I having blundered over a Latin word beginning with " g " followed by " e," pronouncing the " g " hard, it being but a slip of the tongue, Mossie, who should have known so, made as if he didn't, and jeered at me, saying : " Do we say ' gee up ' and not ' jee up ? ' " I was too polite to ask this : Do we say " jet up ? " " jive me a penny " ? I think it was a deliberate cut when, I having been hurt too much in my feelings I wept, he asked me to give him the English for " *Me miserum !* " It may not have been though, but only that that was the next thing he'd have asked of the class anyhow, and that the turn had come to me. Mossie soon learnt that the weak card in my pack was spelling ; yet he never said a word to help me, when the needful word to say should have been so patent to him. Instead of which he would so play me with words to spell that he " moidered " me, to use that expressive dialect word. One run of words, some with one internal " r " and others with two : " bury," " marry," etc.

J.A.C.

School Notes

BOYS' PAGE.

Since January Miss Lawson has been Housemistress no longer. What this means to the boys is best known to those six School generations who knew her English and Geography lessons, her zest for things and people, her vivid interest in life and sturdy loyalty to the School. Now Headmistress of the Royal Merchant Navy's School at Bexhill, we join with the girls in wishing her all happiness and prosperity, and we extend our cordial welcome to her successor, Miss Tron, and to Miss Sloan who has taken Miss Lunn's place as Housekeeper.

The year has passed as swiftly as its predecessors. Among the events that marked its flight were the brilliant day of sunshine for the Sports, when Minto had the ill luck to pull a muscle, the cricket and rugger matches, especially those with St. Mary's, Melrose, the fine summer crops in the garden, the almost unbroken record of good health, and the gym display at the Prize-giving. This ceremony was to be the last at Marchmont, and it was fitting that beside Sir Ernest Wedderburn should sit Captain and Mrs McEwan of Marchmont, in their double character of long-indulgent hosts and honoured guests.

After the last year's delays, a prophet may well be cautious, but when this Boys' Page is read, we expect to be in Edinburgh. The School's years at Marchmont will be done, and where so many with so many differing temperaments are in question, it is difficult to balance here the account of anticipation and regret. A John Watson's in a

new country home of its own was an unattainable dream. Such a change might have wounded some Levite sentiment, and this at least has been spared. But we, who return, salute those, who, eight years ago, went out to find a new and now much loved home, and both unite with the intervening generations to salute Marchmont's generous and gentle master and mistress. To give the School shelter, they cribbed and cabined their own lives, and often to them these years will have seemed long and slow. But to us they have been beyond measure rich in blessing. Those who spent here some of their schooldays, take from this lovely place a life's endowment of remembered beauty. May they remember, too, the cost to the givers and be worthy of the gift.

If the last year passed swiftly, the last term passed especially so. After Mr J. A. Chapman's lively visit (his green and vigorous age was a lesson worth studying), the great cold came, with Marchmont's trees black or sepia against the fields of snow, or against the sky, a sky dark with clouds or of sun-filled azure, or glittering cold and brilliant with moon and stars. As we write, the storm rages. The term will close with the Director's last visit, with a Piano Recital by Vera Henderson, and a Concert arranged for the School by Captain McEwen. Then it will be the removal. John Watson's has flourished, may it flourish still. Marchmont, hail and farewell, long life and prosperity to your happy Masters and all they love.

G. W. Rowe.

GIRLS' PAGE.

This year's *Levite* finds us still in our very beautiful surroundings at Marchmont where we have had yet another opportunity, this time really the last, of enjoying the beauty and the wonder of the changing seasons.

During the year the School lost a valued member of the staff, our Housemistress, Miss Lawson, who left us in December to become Head of a new Merchant Navy Co-educational Boarding School in Bexhill. During her six years with us Miss Lawson always had the best interests of the School at heart and always gave of her best to the pupils, both in the classroom and in the other many-sided activities of the School life. Before she left she was presented with a leather brief-case by the Household and Teaching Staffs and pupils, as a mark of our gratitude and appreciation, and of our good wishes for her happiness in her new school.

In Miss Lawson's place we welcome Miss Tron, a graduate of Leeds University, who has come to us from the Friends' School, Wigton. Already Miss Tron seems to be quite at home at John Watson's and we wish her a long and very happy stay.

In May we welcomed Miss Forsyth, who came in Miss Maclagan's place as Music Mistress, and at the end of this term, we very mucn

regret to say, we shall bid farewell to Mrs Britton, who is leaving to join her husband in the south.

Those Levites who have been at school at Marchmont will remember how much everyone enjoys the Summer Term, with swimming, cricket and sports. This year was no exception. Swimming and cricket were as popular as ever, the Mixed Cricket House Matches causing great excitement, while a really hot Saturday favoured the Sports Finals.

The Hockey team lost five of its best players in July, but those chosen to fill the gaps have practised with enthusiasm and determination, and, we are glad to say, the new team won its only match to date, beating Kelso High School 2-1. The future of our Hockey teams looks particularly bright with so many of the younger girls so enthusiastic and already quite good players.

The present arctic conditions have put an end to Hockey—but, even on the snowiest days have not kept us indoors, and snow fights and sledging have taken the place of organised games. Even walks have become quite popular when there are snow-drifts five or six feet high to be seen.

Indoors, the Christmas Term saw much useful activity among the girls, particularly in knitting jumpers and gloves, and doing embroidery for Christmas presents. Many of the older girls took part in the debates and spoke well, both in prepared speeches and when called upon to express their opinions.

Winter time, too, is the time for School parties, and at Hallowe'en the girls entertained the School to a series of five plays, which if rather long-drawn out, nevertheless, gave us all cause for some hearty laughter. The Christmas Party, complete with a beautifully decorated Christmas Tree, was thoroughly enjoyed by all, and we have to thank Miss Forsyth, Mr Westby and Mr Dakin, for their hard work and careful organisation, which made it the great success it was. Then came Burns Night, a night not easily forgotten, when to our customary commemoration of the " Immortal Memory " by a Burns Supper, recitations, and community singing, was added, this year, the bagpipes. One of the many pleasant items of this party was an exhibition Eightsome Reel by the Senior Girls, accompanied by the pipes played by Mr Horsburgh, of Greenlaw, to whom we are most grateful.

We are always glad to record successes of Levites, and this year we have to thank Elizabeth Arnott for a free Friday evening, in honour of her excellent result in the School Certificate Examination which she took the year after she left John Watson's. She obtained Credits in History, Geography and Art, and Distinction in English Language, English Literature, French, French Oral, Latin, Mathematics and Biology.

This free Friday evening was given on the bicentenary of the death of Lady Grisel Baillie, of Redbraes Castle, in Marchmont and

was spent by many in visiting the ruins of her home, then walking to the Church by the Lady's Walk—as she did—and viewing the vaults where her father, Sir Patrick Hume, lay in hiding for a month and was supplied every night with food and news by the now famous Lady Grisel.

We were very glad to have a visit from Patricia Jack and Moira Simpson last term and we hope many more Levites will visit the School when we get back to Edinburgh.

M. WALL.

THE SCHOOL PRIZE-GIVING, JULY 1946.

Last year the Vacation Day proceedings were held on Saturday, 27th July. Nearly a year has passed since that day but it has nevertheless turned out to be the last prize-giving day which will be held at Marchmont, and it was indeed fitting that among the principal members of the platform party should be Capt. and Mrs J. H. F. McEwen of Marchmont.

The musical programme, given by the pupils, was carried out in a most accomplished and pleasing manner, which reflected great credit on teacher and pupils alike.

Mrs McEwen, in her address to the pupils, commented on the manner in which the School and her family had lived together—yet apart—under the same roof for nearly six years. They had been in the peculiar position of " guests " in their own home, but the difficulties which had arisen on both sides from time to time had all been overcome by the spirit of tolerance and understanding which prevailed.

At the close of the prize-giving there was an exhibition of the pupils' handiwork. The exhibits were astonishing in their variety and ranged from paintings, drawings and silhouettes to articles of needlework, dressmaking, bookbinding, woodwork and wickerwork, etc. Obviously there were few idle hands !

Then after tea a gymnastic display given by the whole School which proved in no uncertain manner, the physical fitness of the pupils. The timing of the rhythmic exercises was especially excellent and the general agility and sprightliness of both boys and girls a delight to see.

The following is the complete list of awards :—

MEDALS AND PRIZES PRESENTED BY THE JOHN WATSON CLUB.

Silver Medal for Dux Boy and Dux of the School—Ronald Frew.
Silver Medal for Dux Girl—Jean Cook.
Langhorne Memorial Bronze Medal for Latin—Ronald Frew.
Rowe Memorial Bronze Medal for Scripture—Ronald Frew.
Ronaldson Writing Prize—Stuart Ross.

Other Prizes :—

Class Primary 3. Fay Herriot, Clifton Botcherby.
Class Primary 4. Leila Newlands, Eileen Simpson.
Class Primary 5. Grant Carson, Murray Botcherby.
Class Secondary 1. Mary Campbell, Graham Rosie.
Class Secondary 2. Elsie McKellar, William Scott.
Class Secondary 3. Ronald Frew, Stuart Ross.

Art—Charles Maxwell, Constance Birkenfield.
Music Piano—Elsie McKellar, Charles Maxwell.
Singing—Ernest Paton, Michael Atkins.
Needlework—Jean Cook. Frances Ballantyne.
Woodwork—James Nesbit, Graham Rosie.
Handwork—Gerald Stiff.
Nature Study—Eileen Simpson.
Gardening—Stuart Ross, Jean Cook and Ernest Paton (equal).
Domestic Science—Jean Cook.
Gymnastics—John Baillie, Patricia Jack.
Margaret Gordon Prizes—John Reid, Scott Angus.
History—Ronald Frew.
Mathematics—Stuart Ross.
Science—Stuart Ross.
French—Ronald Frew.
Gordon Prizes for Scripture—Stephen Douglas, Alan Reid, Mary Campbell.

Gordon Premiums—

Graham Rosie.
Scott Angus.
Rutherford Fortune.
Duncan Stewart.
David Whitty.
James Hill.
James Macartney.
Stephen Douglas.
Patricia Jack.
Shiena McKean.
Ann Thomson.

Sheena Frew.
Barbara Anderson.
Jean McCulloch.
Moira Quarry.
Mary Campbell.
Dorothy McEwan.
Constance Birkenfield
Kenneth Beveridge.
Keith Thom.
James Richardson.
Roy McCulloch.

Jean Cook.
Elizabeth Hooper.
Elsie McKellar.
Frances Ballantyne.
Laura Pringle.
Elizabeth Burchell.
Eileen Simpson.
Archibald Lawrie.
Gordon Minto.
John Baillie.
Alan Reid.

SPORTS PRIZES.

John Watson Club Sports Championship Cup—Gordon Minto.
Marr and Kellie House Championship Cup—Ravelston.

Prizes for :—

Boys' Open Events—1. Gordon Minto.
2. John Baillie.
Girls' Open Events—Jean Cook.
Boys' under 13½ Events—1. David Whitty.
2. Norman McNair.
Girls' under 13½ Events— Sheena McKean, Rosemary Anderson } equal.
Boys' under 11½ Events—Norman Reid.
Girls' under 11½ Events—Jean McCulloch.
Cross Country Boys' Open Event—1. Gordon Minto.
2. David Whitty.
Girls' Open Event—Patricia Jack.
Cricket Prize—Ernest Paton.

School Rugby, Hockey, and Cricket Results, 1946.

RUGBY.

Away.	Under 14½ XV. versus St. Mary's School, Melrose.	Lost 6 pts.—5 pts.
Away	1st XV. versus Hawick High School (under 16).	Lost 20 pts.—8 pts.
Home.	1st XV. versus Kelso High School (under 16).	Won 31 pts.—0 pts.
Home.	Under 14½ XV. versus St. Mary's School, Kelso.	Lost 9 pts.—0 pts.

HOUSE MATCHES.

Dean beat Ravelston and Belford.
Belford beat Ravelston.

HOCKEY.

Away. 1st XI. versus Kelso High School.. Lost 4—0.
Away. 1st XI. versus Berwick High School. Lost 0—0.

CRICKET.

Away. Under 14½ versus St. Mary's School, Melrose. Lost.
St. Mary's School. 143 for 2 wickets.
John Watson's. 47.

Home. 1st XI. versus Leith Scouts. Won.
John Watson's. 38 for 8 —1st Innings.
Leith Scouts. 10 —1st Innings ; 12—2nd Innings.

Away. 1st XI. versus Berwick Grammar School. Won.
John Watson's. 76.
Berwick Grammar School. 62.

Away. 1st XI. versus Duns High School. Lost.
John Watson's. 33.
Duns High School. 34 for 9 wickets.

Home. 1st XI. versus Capt. E. H. House's XI. Lost.
John Watson's. 31.
Capt. House's XI. 55.

HOUSE MATCHES.

Ravelston beat Dean and Belford.
Belford beat Dean.

THE ANNUAL SCHOOL SPORTS, 1946.

LIST OF PRIZE-WINNERS

	Events.	Class.	First.	Second.	Third.	Time or Distance
1	Goal-kicking	B open	G. Rosie	K. Beveridge	I. G. Minto	———
2	Hockey Dribble	G Open	F. Ballantyne	M. Simpson	R. Anderson	———
3	Cricket Ball	B Open	I. G. Minto	K. Beveridge	W. Scott	75 yards.*
4	Cross Country 5½ miles	B Open	I. G. Minto	J. Baillie	E. Paton	50 mins.
5	Cross Country 5½ miles	G Open	P. Jack	S. McKean	J. Cook	———
6	1 Mile	B Open	I. G. Minto	J. Baillie	E. Paton	5 mins. 44. 8scs.†
7	880 Yards	B Open	I. G. Minto	J. Baillie	J. Nesbit	2 mins, 14 secs.†
8	880 Yards	G Open	J. Cook	S. McKean	R. Anderson	2 mins. 42 sees.
9	440 Yards	B Open	I. G. Minto	J. Baillie	E. Paton	1 min. 17 secs.
10	440 Yards	G Open	J. Cook	S. McKean	F. Ballantyne	1 min. 16.8 secs.
11	100 Yards	B Open	I. G. Minto	E. Paton	R. Frew	12.3 secs.
12	100 Yards	G Open	L. Pringle	R. Anderson	J. Cook	12.9 secs.
13	100 Yards	B Und. 13½ yrs.	D. Whitty	N. Macnair	G. Rosie	13.0 secs.
14	100 Yards	G Und. 13½ yrs.	R. Anderson	S. McKean	S. Frew	13.1 secs.
15	100 Yards	B Und. 11½ yrs.	N. Reid	A. D. Eliot	—. Bell	14.5 secs.
16	100 Yards	G Und. 11½ yrs.	J. McCulloch	B. Anderson	E. Simpson	14.7 secs.
17	220 Yards	B Over 13½ yrs.	J. Baillie	E. Paton	K. Beveridge	29.0 secs.
18	220 Yards	G Over 13½ yrs.	L. Pringle	J. Cook	P. Jack	31.7 secs.
19	220 Yards	B Und. 13½ yrs.	D. Whitty	N. Macnair	G. Rosie	30.9 secs.
20	220 Yards	G Und. 13½ yrs.	R. Anderson	S. McKean	S. Frew	32.0 secs.
21	70 Yards	B Und. 10 yrs.	A. S. Hands	A. Dick	—. Chalmers	10.6 secs.
22	70 Yards	G Und. 10 yrs.	M. Lawrie	M. Anderson	A. Thomson	11.7 secs.
23	Cross Country	B Und. 13½ yrs.	D. Whitty	T. Stoakes	M. Botcherby	———
24	Cross Country	G Und. 13½ yrs.	S. McKean	———	———	———
25	Long Jump	B Over 13½ yrs.	I. G. Minto	K. Beveridge	R. Frew	15 ft. 11 ins.
26	Long Jump	G Over 13½ yrs.	L. Pringle	J. Cook	P. Jack	13 ft. 5 ins.
27	Long Jump	B Und. 13½ yrs.	D. Whitty	N. McNair	A. Ross	13 ft. 3½ ins.
28	Long Jump	G Und. 13½ yrs.	S. McKean	R. Anderson	E. Burchell	12 ft. 10 ins.
29	Long Jump	B Und. 11½ yrs.	N. Reid	S. Angus	M. Lawrie	11 ft. 9 ins.
30	Long Jump	G Und. 11½ yrs.	J. McCulloch	E. Simpson	F. Hernitt	9 ft. 7 ins.
31	High Jump	B Over 13½ yrs.	J. Nesbit	K. Beveridge	W. Scott	4 ft. 3 ins.
32	High Jump	G Over 13½ yrs.	J. Cook	P. Jack	L. Pringle	3 ft. 9½ ins.
33	High Jump	B Und. 13½ yrs.	T. Stoakes	D. Whitty	N. McNair	3 ft. 11 ins.
34	High Jump	G Und. 13½ yrs.	R. Anderson	S. McKean	E. Burchell, D. McEwan	3 ft. 7 ins.
35	High Jump	B Und. 11½ yrs.	A. D. Elliott	M. Lawrie	—. Bell	3 ft. 6 ins.
36	High Jump	G Und. 11½ yrs.	J. McCulloch	B. Anderson	L. Newlands	3 ft. 2 ins.
37	Relay Race	B and G Senior	Ravelston	Belford	Dean	———
38	Relay Race	B and G Junior	Dean	Ravelston	Belford	———

* Best since 1929. † Best since 1927.

SPORTS CHAMPIONS.

Open	Boys.	I. G. Minto.	J. Baillie.
	Girls.	J. Cook.	R. Anderson.
Under 13½ years.	Boys.	D. Whitty.	N. MacNair.
	Girls.	S. McKean.	R. Anderson.
Under 11½ years.	Boys.	N. Reid.	A. D. Elliott.
	Girls.	J. McCulloch.	———

FINAL HOUSE PLACINGS

(including Sports, Cricket, Rugby, Hockey, Gymnastics, Gardening).

1. Ravelston. 2. Belford. 3. Dean.

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